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A.—(*a*) Enquiry showed that the surplus of the Kilanur tank flowed over the fields, joined the Kattangal and eventually entered the Karikalavakkam tank, that all the surplus of the tank could not be diverted to the Karikalavakkam tank direct without damage to the lands under the Kilanur tank to the north of the road and that a diversion bund was never in existence. The Executive Engineer took the ryots to the place and explained the position.

(*b*) No. It was due to the unusual floods caused by the cyclone of 1930.

(*c*) There are no proposals to prevent recurrence of such overflow. The direction of flow is understood to be 'mamool' and consequently in extraordinary floods the spill over the area cannot be avoided.

Land Revenue Administration

Proceedings of the Conference of the landholders of South Kanara held at Puttur, on 3rd December 1933.

* 497 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolutions and the proceedings of the Conference of the landholders of South Kanara held at Puttur on 3rd December 1933; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take on the same?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) They are under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know whether the Government have now arrived at any decision?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"The resolutions in question related to various subjects like resettlement, revenue remissions, forest grievances and I think, other matters which I cannot remember at the present moment. I have stated that these matters are under the consideration of the Government. As regards revenue remission, an announcement has already been made. As regards resettlement, the matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Imposition of a uniform water-rate on lands under the Polavaram project.

* 498 *Q.*—Mr. K. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu:—"Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) with reference to the answer at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 18th March 1933 that 'the water-rate imposed under a project depends mainly upon the cost incurred in the supply of water' and that 'the commercial value of water can scarcely be fixed with

precision,' whether these considerations have been authoritatively laid down in any resolution or despatch of the Secretary of State or the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that in connexion with the imposition of the water-rate in the Godavari delta, the commercial value of water was the criterion by which it was determined;

(c) whether it was mainly on the ground of the increase in the prices of food-grains and increased profits accruing to the ryot and consequently in the rise of the commercial value of water that the original water-rate was increased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 and Rs. 4 to Rs. 5;

(d) what the reason is for increasing recently the said rate from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6-4-0 an acre on dry lands;

(e) whether it is a fact that in determining the consolidated wet rate in the Godavari delta, a uniform water-rate was not imposed but a graduated water-rate with due regard to the quality and position of the land;

(f) if so, why a uniform water-rate was imposed on all lands under the Polavaram project without any regard to their quality, irrigation and drainage facilities and their capacity to bear the said rate;

(g) whether it is a fact that during the current fasli many ryots in the Polavaram island were obliged to keep their lands waste rather than take water to cultivate them as wet in view of the excessive water-rate of Rs. 10-8-0 per acre and the low prices of paddy; and

(h) what the extent is of land, villagewar, in the Polavaram island cultivated as wet as compared with the previous fasli?

A.—(a) It is in accordance with the views of the Government of India that the rates of water-cess imposed under a project should depend partly on the cost incurred.

(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to clauses (d) and (e) of question No. 211 given on 31st October 1933 which explains the principles on which the rates of water-cess were determined in the Kistna and Godavari deltas.

(c) The rates were raised in 1865 and 1894 from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 and from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 respectively on various considerations, such as increase of prices, extension and improvement of channels and communications, the low rates of water-cess which then obtained, the state of public finances and the cost of maintenance of irrigation works.

(d) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Special Settlement Officer's 'Report on the water-rates' which was published along with the Resettlement scheme report for East Godavari, West Godavari and Kistna.

(e) The hon. Member has presumably in mind the 'differential water-rate system' which has already been described in the answer to clauses (d) and (e) of question No. 211 answered on 31st October 1933.

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(*f*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of his question No. 726 at the meeting of 21st March 1933 in which the reasons for levying a uniform rate of Rs. 10–8–0 an acre have been explained.

(*g*) & (*h*) The Government have not the information but have called for it.

Mr. P. Peddi Raju:—"May I ask whether the Government are aware that the zamindari assessment in the Polavaram Island is about Rs. 11 and when this Rs. 10–8–0 as water-rate is added, whether the ryots will be able to take water at this cost and cultivate their lands?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I am not aware what rate is charged by the zamindars on dry lands. The ryots agreed to pay the rate for water of Rs. 10–8–0 an acre if the project was undertaken. As I stated on a previous occasion in this House, we are waiting for the final accounts of the cost of this project and we will then consider whether it is possible to reduce the rates of water-cess and still keep the project remunerative."

Mr. P. Peddi Raju:—"Quite apart from the final settlement of the water-rates, may I ask whether the Government will consider the advisability of reducing the rates temporarily, at least till the prices rise?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"Under the orders already issued by the Government, the ryots receive a suspension of 12½ per cent of the water-cess during the current year. I cannot admit that the ryots cannot raise paddy at this water-rate, for the simple reason that a large area—9,000 acres, I think—has been brought under irrigation under this project. This is far in excess of what we anticipated."

Mr. P. Peddi Raju:—"May I know whether the Government will inquire whether the existing zamindari rate is not Rs. 11 an acre, and whether an addition of Rs. 10–8–0 as water-rate will not make it impossible for the ryots to cultivate wet crops?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I am not prepared to inquire into the zamindari rates."

Income due to the imposition of water-tax at a flat rate of Rs. 6-4-0 per acre.

* 499 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the increased income to the Government is in Guntur district, talukwar, owing to the imposition of a flat rate of Rs. 6–4–0 per acre as water-tax; and

(*b*) what the increase in income is under the enhanced water-rate in the whole Presidency, districtwar?